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F4EX8 (TENTATIVE DRAFT)
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October 1, 1945

EXTENSION-SCS FIELD DEMONSTRATION

IN GROWING WILD OR ADAPTED VARIETIES OF FRUITS AND NUTS

THROUGH LAND USE PLANTINGS

TO IMPROVE THE FAMILY FOOD SUPPLY

Primary Cooperating Agencies

Extension Service
Soil Conservation Service

Farm Security Administration
Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agri-
cultural Engineering

Purpose

To improve farm family nutrition where needed by improving the family food supply with the nutrients provided by fruits and nuts, in connection with land use plantings.

Location

Areas where the home fruit and nut supply can be appreciably improved by such plantings, and where personnel of the respective cooperating agencies are available.

Goal for 1945-46

- A. Locating a few areas in selected States in each of the four supervisory areas of the Federal Extension Service in which continuing cooperative field demonstrations can profitably be set up, planning and starting the demonstrations, and giving them proper supervision.
- B. Assembling visual and written material with which to explain the value and scope of the demonstration and illustrate the plant materials available by regions.

Situation

In some areas climatic and soil conditions--high or low temperatures, drought, exposure, standing water, erosion--make it difficult or impossible to grow the common varieties of fruits and nuts by ordinary cultural methods, even on a small scale for family use. However, field tests and farmer experiences have demonstrated that in many of the areas where these difficulties are met with, fruits and nuts can be successfully produced if adapted varieties are planted on selected, properly prepared sites and are given suitable culture and protection. On the plains and in semiarid regions fruit and nut plantings may be successful in connection with shelter belts, in draws, and on sites where accumulations of water can be

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used for irrigation. In contrast, certain adapted fruit varieties will thrive in permanently moist locations. In some areas land suited mainly for growing trees or for wildlife can also produce fruit and nuts for man.

Cooperation to improve the family fruit and nut supply in areas where climatic and soil conditions make this important has been under discussion for several years between Federal workers of the Extension Service, the Farm Security Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service. In 1943 the chiefs of the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service endorsed the purposes and pointed out the possibilities of such cooperation in letters to the heads of their respective agencies in the States.

Early in 1945 interested staff members of Extension, Soil Conservation, and Farm Security met and worked out the procedure suggested below for getting a limited number of cooperative field demonstrations started. The group included extension specialists in nutrition, food preservation, and horticulture; regional field agents for agriculture and home economics; field agent for home food production and conservation; field agent for 4-H Club work; Extension-SCS conservationists; SCS biologists; research workers; and others.

In 45 States plans for land use and soil conservation are being carried out through the cooperation of farmers with soil conservation districts. The Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service are providing educational and technical assistance in carrying out these farm plans. This provides a basis for the proposed cooperative field demonstration. It is, however, important to enlist the interest of housewives and of 4-H youngsters, as well as of farmers, in this particular field demonstration. This can readily be done by extension and farm security workers through their contacts with farm women, boys, and girls.

Suggested Procedure for 1945-46

A. State

1. Schedule an exploratory round-table discussion at the State institution with a discussion leader and secretary, attended by appropriate extension supervisors, specialists, and personnel, including the regional SCS nurseryman and biologist, and FSA workers who have contributions to make. Such a discussion may well be planned to take place during the visit of a Federal extension worker interested in the field demonstration.
2. The purposes of this discussion would be threefold:
 - a. Tentatively to select two or three counties that might be suitable for the demonstration, by considering:
 - (1) Areas where the cooperative field demonstration would probably fill a nutritional need and where other conditions, including personnel, are favorable to successful completion.
 - (2) Native, adapted, or hardy plant materials suitable for use in such areas.

- (3) Sources of such materials for use in demonstrations.
 - (4) Successful shelter-belt and SCS plantings already in existence which demonstrate possibilities.
 - (5) Illustrative material and records already available for presenting possibilities of the work to the personnel of both agencies, and to rural people. The use of selected Kodachrome slides at this meeting would add greatly to its success.
 - (6) Cultural practices already demonstrated as feasible; and those whose value, while perhaps not completely established, are worthy of testing.
 - (7) Kind of demonstrations suitable.
 - (a) Extending practices already established to a number of farms where conditions are suitable.
 - (b) Preliminary tests on individual farms to determine the suitability of practices believed to be adapted to the area.
- b. To decide upon ways of orienting the workers of the respective agencies to the value of the demonstration.
- (1) Extension nutritionists or other food specialists might present to SCS personnel, at a State or district meeting, the importance of fruits and nuts in the diet, the importance of increasing the amount of these foods in the diet of local families, the nutrients contributed by native or adapted varieties under discussion, and the products that can be made from them to vary the diet or for sale.
 - (2) The regional biologist, regional SCS nurseryman, experiment station worker, extension horticulturist or forester might discuss varieties adapted for such demonstrations before extension workers and others in areas under consideration for field demonstrations.
- c. To plan for preliminary contacts by extension specialists and supervisors in suitable counties, with county extension and soil conservation personnel, to explore the feasibility of establishing a cooperative field demonstration. Persons to be consulted include the county extension agents, the home management supervisor, farm security district conservationist, farm planner, and soil district supervisor, also a few selected homemakers and farmers.
3. Summarize the discussion, select a chairman, and assign responsibilities for action.

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B. County or Soil District

1. If consultation within the county shows that the field demonstration is desired, make plans for a meeting of persons concerned with planning and carrying out the demonstration in the county.
2. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the desirability of undertaking a cooperative field demonstration in the area 1/, and to make plans.

Plans might include:

- a. Locating demonstrations on farms with farmer-district agreements.
- b. Obtaining suitable plant materials.
- c. Obtaining technical assistance for demonstrators.
- d. Follow-up and use of the demonstrations.
- e. Part to be played by home demonstration clubs, 4-H Clubs, and other organizations.

1/ Mail record under section 69 on page 7 of the Combined Annual Report of Extension Work.